



AMERICAN BOARD OF TOXICOLOGY

DABT NEWS

Summer 2017

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AND THE WINNER IS...

The ABT newsletter has a new name, **DABT NEWS**. The name was selected from over 30 entries received in response to our newsletter name contest. Congratulations to Subbu Karanth who submitted the winning name and received a \$25 gift card. There are also two honorable mentions. John Butenhoff submitted the name "The Dose" which is now the title of our President's message in each newsletter. Jay Nadeau submitted "Auntie Dote" which is going to be the name of a regular newsletter feature where answers to common questions will be answered. Be sure to read it below.



THE DOSE

It's too easy these days to be captured by a day-to-day news cycle that seems like some sort of a twitter-fueled hail storm. In the background, where things are a bit more settled and move more carefully, there is a revolution underway in the life sciences; it's worth paying close attention.



CRISPR-based modification of the human genome, the use of quantum chemistry to probe biochemical reactions, and the *in vitro* culture of functional tissues balanced on 3D printed carbon scaffolds are just a few of the developments rocking the biomedical world. As toxicologists, it is critical for us to stay ahead of the game, helping to predict and prevent unintended adverse consequences. It's a daunting task to keep up with these changes.

Our mission at the ABT is to identify, maintain, and adapt a standard for professional competency in the field of toxicology. This means assuring that aspiring and veteran Diplomates alike can be confident that ABT is constantly evolving to address rapid changes in our field. Over the past few years, the Board has taken significant steps to enhance our ability to serve Diplomates and ensure that certification by ABT remains the most respected professional certification for toxicologists in the world. This year the certification process has been redesigned according to data gathered from the recently completed [ABT job analysis](#) which allows the exam to reflect the knowledge needed to practice as a toxicologist today. The recent job analysis has also allowed us to shorten the exam to a single day; a much welcome efficiency for all!

Recertification has been simplified and designed as an informative literature review of exciting discoveries in toxicology. The [feedback](#) we have received from those who have recently participated in recertification has been overwhelmingly positive. The Recertification Committee continues to seek cutting-edge, open-source literature to use for the review. This new recertification process promises to be both entertaining and enlightening by providing recertifying Diplomates with a dose of science outside their usual fields of study.

ABT relies on Diplomates' support and participation in our efforts to remain the most well-respected certification in general toxicology. We are thrilled to have four new members on the Board whose skill and experience will assure continued professional advancement and excellent service to ABT. In March, we were joined by Drs. Drew Badger, Robert Mitkus, Jack Snyder, and Donald Stump. Please congratulate them on their commitment to serve you and the American Board of Toxicology.

As usual, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions about how ABT may better serve our community of professional toxicologists, please contact our Executive Director, Susie Masten at info@abtox.org or by calling the ABT office at 919-841-5022.

Chris Weis
President (2017-18)

BOARD NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Diplomates are invited to nominate themselves or a fellow Diplomat for the seats on the Board of Directors becoming vacant in April, 2018. Please be aware that the ABT is a working Board, and Board members have to be able to meet deadlines. Time requirements include participating in three Board meetings per year, extensive Committee work at certain times of the year, proctoring the certification examination in October and helping to man the ABT booth at the SOT meeting. In order to be considered for this election, Board candidates **MUST** be available for the 2018 summer meeting, which will be held in Winston-Salem, NC from July 22-25, 2018.

For effective Diplomat representation, ABT tries to maintain a balance between academia, government, and industry. In addition, emphasis is placed upon areas of expertise in relation to the current Board makeup in order to have as comprehensive a representation as possible. If you have previously submitted your CV, and were not selected, please consider re-submitting as the needs of the Board change each year. Please note, the Board welcomes all nominations from Diplomates who have completed at least one recertification cycle. Nominations and CVs are due by September 30, 2017 to be considered for the March 2018 elections. If you have any questions, please contact the ABT office.

HELP WANTED: NEW LOGO FOR ABT

Did you ever look at the ABT logo and think that it needs an update? If so, you are not alone. With all the exciting changes ABT is undergoing, the Board would like to add a fresh, updated and more modern logo to the mix. Diplomates are invited to submit ideas for consideration. Please send them via email to info@abtox.org. Note that logos must be in a .png or .jpg format. All ideas should be submitted by December 31, 2017.

OUTREACH UPDATE

The Board is preparing to step up its usage with social media via LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter. The goals are to engage more with Diplomates, providing notice of updates, CE opportunities and deadlines; inform the public about ABT; and encourage new candidates to apply for the ABT exam. Regular postings are planned that include the following:

TWITTER

- Trivia Tuesday: Every Tuesday we post a toxicology trivia question.
- Super Tuesday Trivia: Periodically we will have Super Tuesday Trivia, and the first person to answer the trivia question correctly will receive a prize!
- CE opportunities such as free webinars sponsored by SOT
- Accomplishments and awards earned by Diplomates- email them to us so we can Tweet them!

FACEBOOK

- Fabulous Fridays: We would like to feature a different Diplomat each Friday- contact us if you are interested!
- Videos of Diplomates discussing benefits of certification
- CE opportunities such as webinars, etc.
- Announcements about recertification deadlines, payment deadlines, ABT mixer meetings, etc.
- Relevant breaking news regarding issues in toxicology and/or the credentialing industry as it applies to the field of toxicology

LINKEDIn

- Notice of new job postings on the Diplomat portion of the website
- Significant awards Diplomates receive related to the field of toxicology

Please send all suggestions for postings to info@abtox.org. Pictures are also welcome! Don't forget to follow us on all the social media sites to stay connected!

DEAR AUNTIE DOTE

NOTE: Questions for Auntie Dote can be submitted to info@abtox.org. She is looking for future column material!

Dear Auntie Dote:

I am so confused! My ABT account says that I am certified through December 31, 2018. But I received a letter from ABT saying that I have to submit my application by March 31, 2017. Is it a typo? Shouldn't my application be due by March 31, 2018?

Disconcerted Diplomat

Dear Disconcerted: No, it is not a typo. Recertification begins the year prior to expiration so that Diplomates have time to address any deficiencies in their applications. Be sure to check out the new Recertification Handbook on the Diplomat portion of the ABT website- it has all the information you need about the entire recertification policy and process. And of course, you can always call the ABT office to speak with the friendly lady who can answer your questions!

WELCOME FOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The following Diplomates were elected to the Board of Directors and began four-year terms on April 1, 2017:



Dr. Donald Stump



Dr. Jack Snyder



Dr. Robert Mitkus



Dr. Drew Badger

RECERTIFICATION UPDATE - LITERATURE REVIEW FEEDBACK

The first round of the new component of the recertification process is complete! Effective in 2017, the method of illustrating Maintaining Expert Knowledge in General Toxicology has been changed. Rather than submitting exam questions or completing the open book recertification exam, all Diplomates recertifying this year took part in the new Literature Review process. With every change comes a feeling of trepidation, and when the announcement was made, many Diplomates expressed this. The Board is happy to announce the positive response to this new process has been overwhelming. Below are some quotes from Diplomates who completed this process:

Brian Lukey, 1993: This new recertification approach is phenomenal. I really enjoyed the exercise (I guess I should wait to see if I passed) and learned quite a bit from it. The questions were straight forward and pertinent.

I was really questioning whether I wanted to recertify due to my memory of past recertification efforts and my current objectives for my life. I'm so glad I decided to attempt another round.

Thank you for a much, much improved recertification process. Kudos to you and your team.

David Cragin, 1993: When I saw that recertification would include a literature review, I wondered what this would entail. I was very pleasantly surprised. The topics chosen are timely.

The suggested articles were good choices (particularly the Zika one). The questions and answers were well developed. I actually enjoyed working on them and I learned while doing so (a superb combination – learning + enjoyment).

Marie Fortin, 2013: This recertification was great! I already cited the paper on adversity in several of my work conversation with clients and with my internal stakeholders.

Thomas Lewandowski, 2003: Thanks for choosing such interesting articles.

Maureen Gwinn, 2008: I have to admit, I did all four of them. Very interesting articles!

Heli Hollnagel, 2008: I was delighted to see that the committee selected very relevant publications and offered the 2 out of 4 selection. With that scheme, this review was meaningful for my daily work as well. Many thanks to all involved!

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION 2017

The 2017 Certification Examination will be held on October 7, 2017. This will be the first year the exam is only one day with the new 200 question format to be graded for one complete score. The Board reviewed 192 applications from 11 different countries. The exam will be given in five locations: North Carolina, California, Scotland, India and South Korea.

JOB LISTINGS

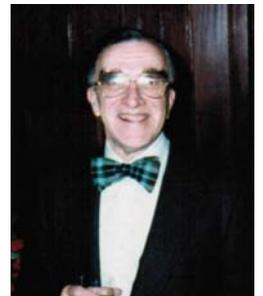
The Job Listing service is active in the Diplomate section of the ABT site. Employers can post open positions for a fee of \$300 for six months. Diplomates have access to the listings upon logging into the website. Please let your employers know about this new service! In order for it to be successful, we need help in spreading the word about its availability.

CLASSES OF 1983/1988/1993/1998/2003/2008/2013 RECERTIFICATION

Diplomates who were originally certified in 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013 were both mailed and emailed recertification notices in January. All applications were due March 31, 2017. If you are a Diplomate who was due to recertify and didn't submit your application, it's not too late! Go ahead and submit your application via the ABT website. If you have any questions, please contact the ABT office.

IN MEMORIAM: Dr. John Doull

Dr. John Doull, one of ABT's original Board members and a giant in the toxicology field, passed away on March 24, 2017 at the age of 94. Dr. Doull was a key contributor to the formation and success of the ABT. While he never took the examination, feeling it would be unfair as he helped provide many of the original questions, he stayed involved with ABT throughout the years. At the ABT Open Mixer meeting celebrating its 30th year, Dr. Doull gave a presentation about the importance of ABT certification and was presented with an honorary ABT Diplomate pin, the only non-Diplomate to ever receive one. Dr. Doull will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. His obituary can be read online by clicking [here](#).



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